



# LOGGERHEADLINES

## SEA TURTLES AROUND THE WORLD SAY GOODBYE TO ED DRANE

Ed has been instrumental in the Hilton Head Turtle Watch protection since 1985, in the beginning walking the beaches and looking for Loggerhead Sea Turtle nests and later the hatchlings. In recent years the Coastal Discovery Museum has taken on this important project and Ed served as Project Coordinator Emeritus. Because of his love and desire to help protect Sea Turtles, he became involved in the International Sea Turtle Society, traveling all over the world to learn more and enhance the conservation of Sea Turtles. His contribution was to serve as Treasurer for the last 19 years. Ed left us on August 6, 2009 after a brief illness.

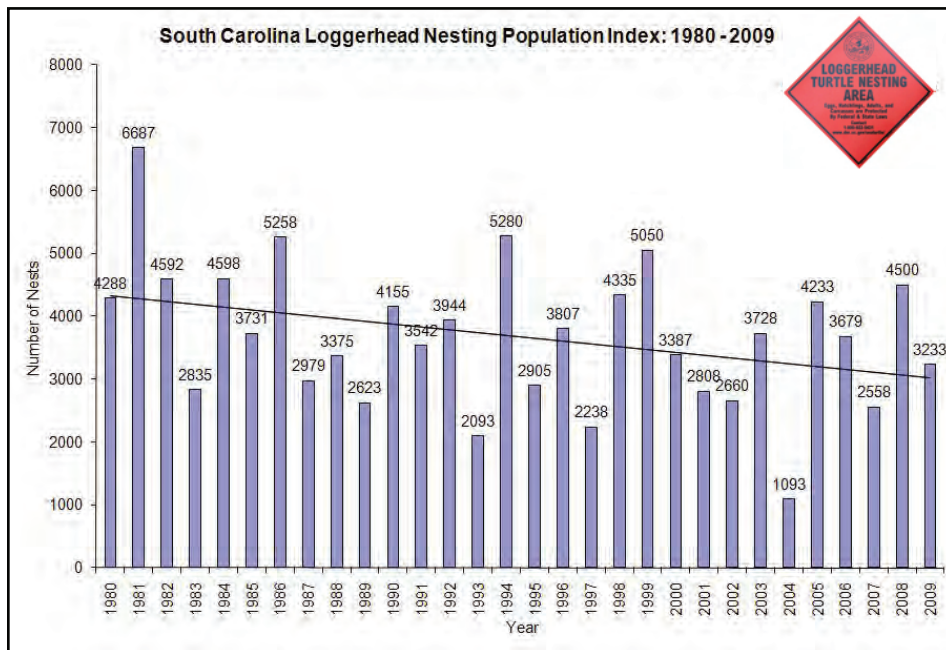
Read more: [www.tributes.com/show/Edwin-Drane-86530817](http://www.tributes.com/show/Edwin-Drane-86530817).



## NESTING IN 2009

[seaturtle.org](http://seaturtle.org)

Loggerhead nesting in South Carolina was average in 2009 based on the past ten years. The 2009 state estimate is 3233 nests. The season also included three leatherback nests and one green nest. Mean hatch success for the state is 64.4%. The green and leatherback nests did not fair well with all hatch successes reported as 0%.



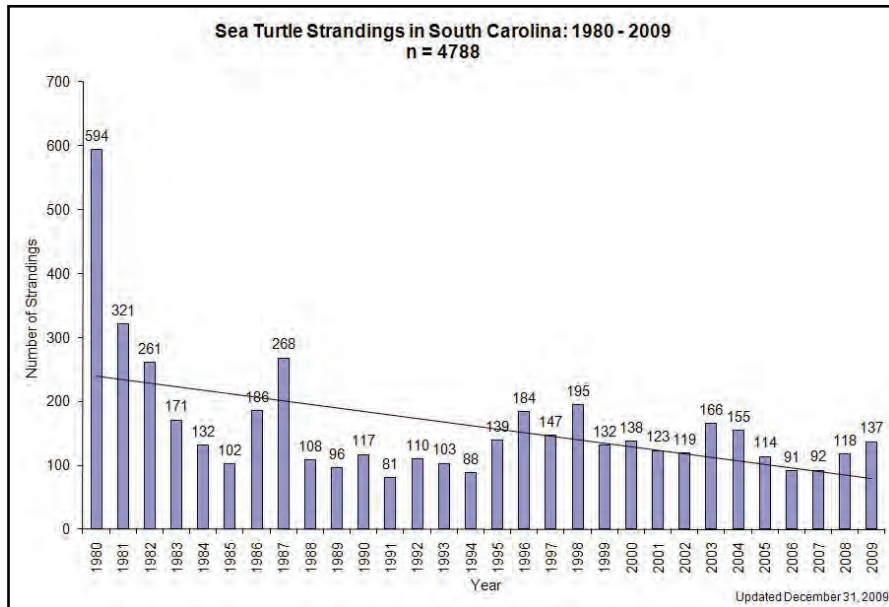
This year (2009) was the debut of the new Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System built by [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org) which allows for rapid reporting of sea turtle nesting data and generates summary statistics, reports, graphs and maps on demand. Such immediate feedback is beneficial to both individual project data managers as well as state coordinators. Read here to see how your project ranked on timely reporting:

[www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/index.htm](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/index.htm). Please visit this new online database for more detailed information on the 2009 nesting season: [www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/index.shtml?view=2](http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/index.shtml?view=2).

Projects	2008	2009
Waties Island	13	8
North Myrtle Beach	5	2
Myrtle Beach	15	4
Myrtle Beach S.P.	7	1
Huntington Beach S.P.	10	7
S.C.U.T.E.	121	57
Sand Island	33	24
South Island	170	97
Cape Island	1114	750
Lighthouse Island	211	141
Bull Island	106	109
Dewees Island	18	16
Sullivans/Isle of Palms	30	23
Folly Beach	63	35
Kiawah Island	232	128
Seabrook Island	62	37
Botany Island	144	72
Botany Bay Plantation	235	124
Edingsville Beach	46	64
Edisto Beach S.P.	50	68
Edisto Beach	49	77
Harbor Island	21	25
Hunting Island	60	80
Fripp Island	35	27
Pritchards Island	34	ND
St. Phillips	14	ND
Hilton Head Island	200	180
Daufuskie Island	62	31
TOTAL	3160	2187

## STRANDING, POST-MORTEM AND REHAB NEWS

Strandings in 2009 (n = 137) were greater than 2008 (n = 118), but not different from the 10-year mean of 130. Of these 137, 16 turtles stranded alive (three were released, four are undergoing care at the SC Aquarium and nine died). There were three strandings reported during January through March, seven in April, 45 in May, 40 in June, 23 in July, nine in August and 10 September through December. The species composition of those stranded was 86 loggerheads, 21 green, 26 Kemp's ridleys, 0 leatherbacks, one hawksbill and three unidentified. By county, Horry = 27, Georgetown = 22, Charleston = 61, Beaufort = 23, Colleton = 4 and Jasper = 0. Twenty-seven post-mortem exams were performed. Fifteen indicated an acute death (nine interacted with watercraft), seven indicated chronic mortality and five could not be rated.



Three tag recaptures have been reported to us this year. A tagged loggerhead was found on the Isle of Palms on 6/2/2009. This turtle was originally tagged on 6/24/2002 by the SCDNR MRD In-Water Study. A loggerhead initially tagged while nesting on Cape Island on 6/22/2000 stranded after being hit by a boat on Assateague Island, Maryland on 7/28/2009.

SC Aquarium Sea Turtle Rescue Program - In 2009, 13 sea turtles were admitted: five loggerheads, four greens and four Kemp's ridleys. The three most recent patients were part of the cold-stunning event off of the NC coast. Eleven sea turtles were released back into the ocean bringing the total number of releases to 43. Other important hospital news: A grass roots fundraising campaign started by members of the SCUTE community and wrapped up by turtle team members across the state, raised \$35,000 to purchase a digital radiograph machine. Radiography is



The South Carolina Marine Turtle Conservation Program began in 1977 with beach management research. The program further developed in the early eighties with formation of the nest protection and stranding volunteer networks along the coast of South Carolina. Today, the program encompasses research, management, monitoring and education within the local, regional and international communities. We are indebted to the continued passion, dedication and effort of our volunteers and staff.

### Program Staff

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The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

This program is funded in part with grants from NOAA Fisheries and the US Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. Data presented in Loggerheadlines are not to be used in any publication, product, or commercial application without prior written consent of the data owner. If consent is given, the data provider must be cited appropriately after approval of use is obtained.



**DNR**  
[www.dnr.sc.gov](http://www.dnr.sc.gov)

## SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program

a very important diagnostic tool in sea turtle medicine and we thank all involved in this endeavor! Also, we were able to hire a Sea Turtle Biologist, Christi Hughes, to help with the busy program. Christi comes to us from Galveston, TX where she was working at the NOAA Sea Turtle Facility helping to take care of over 400 loggerhead sea turtles that were being raised for research. Please join me in welcoming Christi to the South Carolina sea turtle community! Be sure to visit [www.scaquarium.org](http://www.scaquarium.org) for hospital tour information, patient updates and much more. Photograph by Barbara Bergwerf.

### REGIONAL AND NETWORK NEWS

**SCUTE:** Exemplary fundraising efforts by the SCUTE DeBordieu, Hobcaw and Prince George Sea Turtle Patrol volunteers were an extreme success in raising initial funds to purchase an X-RAY machine to aid with the care and rehabilitation of sick and injured sea turtles that strand in South Carolina.



**Isle of Palms:** Mary Pringle designed, entered and won a ribbon for her Sea Turtle Conservation Educational Exhibit at the Coastal Carolina Fair. Congratulations to Mary for a job well done!

**North Carolina - Matthew Godfrey:** There were 586 loggerhead, eight green and three leatherback turtle nests observed. The total number of stranded turtles was 638.

**Georgia - Mark Dodd:** Georgia DNR cooperators located a total of 997 loggerhead and seven leatherback nests in 2009. Although the long time-series trend data from islands going back 40 years show an overall declining trend in loggerhead nesting, data from the shorter comprehensive data (20 years, all islands) show a stable population. There were 147 sea turtle strandings (dead turtles washing up on the "strand" or beach) this year.

**Regional In-Water Sea Turtle Trawl Survey** - In summer 2009, 580 trawling events yielded 152 loggerheads and 11 Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Overall, loggerhead catch rates were the second highest and Kemp's ridley catch rates were the highest since this survey began, but not significantly different from other years in the survey. However, catch rates for loggerheads 65.1-75.0cm and 75.1-85.0cm minimum straight-line carapace length (SCLmin) have increased significantly. Catch rates for loggerheads 65.1-75.0cm SCLmin are greatest between St. Augustine, FL and Brunswick, GA; however, catch rates for loggerheads 75.1-85.0cm SCLmin are greatest between Savannah, GA and Charleston, SC. Loggerheads collected in 2009 appeared to be generally healthy and approximately 10% of all loggerheads appeared to be visibly rotund and fewer emaciated and/or lethargic individuals were collected.

### OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program has two new educational publications available. The first publication is the part of the Sea Science series and is located at this address:

[www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/pub/seascience/seaturtle.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/pub/seascience/seaturtle.html). The second publication is part of the State of the Resource series and can be found here: [www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/pub/stateofloggerhead.pdf](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/marine/pub/stateofloggerhead.pdf).

We also have a new Outreach and Education page on our web site that provides a comprehensive list of sea turtle educational resources: [www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/outreach.htm](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/outreach.htm) and a new media page for media staff: [www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/media.htm](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/media.htm).

The second revision of the Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle is available on the internet: [www.fws.gov/northflorida](http://www.fws.gov/northflorida).

The Loggerhead Biological Review Team report titled "Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) 2009 Status Review under the U.S. Endangered Species Act" is complete and is available on the internet:

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/statusreviews.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/statusreviews.htm).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SEA TURTLE OFFICE

[seaturtle.org](http://seaturtle.org)

### Upcoming Events

April 27-29: 30th Annual International Sea Turtle Symposium in Goa, India. Visit: [www.seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org).

### Loggerheadlines Available Online

Loggerheadlines can be read online at [www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/index.htm](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/index.htm). Please let us know if you would like to use this resource and prefer not to get a hard copy in the mail.

### South Carolina CTurtle List Serve

If you would like to join this list serve, please send an email to [coastbio@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:coastbio@dnr.sc.gov).

### Carolinas' Beach Vitex Task Force

Please continue to report any possible locations of beach vitex by submitting a report form online. It is important that the plant not be removed until it has been positively identified. Visit: [www.beachvitex.org](http://www.beachvitex.org).

**Protect Beach-Nesting Birds:** Remember from April to August beach-nesting birds congregate along the coast of South Carolina to breed. These birds are declining and need your help. If you have questions about beach nesting birds, please contact SCDNR biologist Felicia Sanders: [sandersf@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:sandersf@dnr.sc.gov).

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**SCDNR Needs Your Support!** Citizens of South Carolina can support DNR through the purchase of the endangered species license plate and Check Off for Wildlife. The Endangered Wildlife Fund is the foundation of support for threatened and endangered wildlife in South Carolina. Look for line 26 on the long form (SC1040) or line 13 on the short form (SC1040A) of the South Carolina Department of Revenue Individual Tax Return form, then complete and submit Form I-330. Help us keep wildlife in your life!

